WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 16TH NOVEMBER, 2007

Khurda-Bolangir Rail Line

*21. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the inordinate delay in construction of Khurda-Bolangir rail link, sanctioned in 1994-95, has triggered severe public resentment in Orissa State;

(b) whether the MPs and MLAs of the area have impressed upon him for allotment of adequate funds for completion of this project within a time-bound period; and

(c) if so, what is the status of this project, indicating the time-frame within which it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) As per the information available, on such public resentment has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir. Demands have been received from State Government of Orissa and elected representatives in this regard.

(c) Land acquisition has been taken up and so far, about 900 acres out of 4951 acres has been acquired. Earthwork, bridges etc. taken up from km. 0 to 36. An expenditure of Rs. 67.83 crore was incurred upto 31.03.2007 and an outlay of Rs. 20 crore has been provided for 2007-08. No target date for completion has been fixed yet. The work is being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Halting of Trains at Yerraguntla Station

*22. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested his Ministry to provide haltage of Kachiguda-Chennai Egmore Express, Nizamuddin-Tirupathi Sampark Express and Mumbai-Madurai Lokmanya Tilak Express at Yerraguntla railway station; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, in response to the requests received from the Government and the Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh, stoppage of 6751/6752 Kacheguda-Chennai Egmore Express at Yerraguntla has been provided from 01.10.2007 on an experimental basis for six months. However, stoppages of 2707/2708 Nizamuddin-Tirupati Andhra Pradesh Samapark Kranti Express and 1043/1044 Madurai Lokmanya Tilak(T) Express at Yerraguntla station as requested have been examined and not found feasible at present, due to lack of commercial justification.

Vacancies in railways

*23. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railways is not filling up vacancies in various categories;